[5th November 1935

Land Revenue Administration

Assignment of lands in the Tanjore district for wet cultivation under the Mettur Project.

* 446 *Q*.—Mr. M. Devadasan: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many acres of waste land have been proposed to be assigned to the people of Tanjore for wet cultivation under the Mettur Project; and

(*b*) how many of these acres have been assigned or are proposed to be assigned to the members of the depressed classes?

A.—(*a*) Two statements [a] showing the total extents of waste lands available for assignment for wet cultivation under the Cauvery-Mettur Project in the Tanjore district are appended to this answer.

(*b*) No assignment has yet been made to members of the depressed classes or to others. No lands have been reserved for assignment to members of the depressed classes.

Mr. M. Devadasan:—" May I ask, Sir, whether the Government have directed the District Collector to reserve in favour of the Depressed Classes a portion of the 25,000 acres that are sought to be assigned to the various classes? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" I do not think there is any statement that anything is assigned to the various classes anywhere."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar:—" In view of the fact that the lands are all wet and are valuable, may I ask, Sir, whether the Government would dispose of them by public auction, whether it be to the general public or the depressed classes? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" The Government have not, so far as I am aware, made any such proposal."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I ask whether the Government will favourably consider the scheme for the colonization of the unemployed in these waste lands that are now available? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" Sir, that is a very large question."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" May I ask whether the Government or the Hon. Member has received any petition from an association of Mannargudi requesting the Government to assign a portion of these lands for colonization by the educated unemployed young men?

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" Notice, Sir."

[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 671 infra.

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Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" Am I to take it that the Government are not prepared to consider any such question of colonization of the unemployed on these lands?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" Notice, Sir."

Alleged circular of the Board of Revenue for reclassification of lands in South Kanara every year.

* 447 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Revenue Board has issued circulars to the Revenue officials in the district of South Kanara to reclassify lands every year in case any lands are converted into garden or wet; and to tax single-crop lands when a second crop is raised on the higher basis?

A.—The Government have no information whether the Board of Revenue has issued any circulars on the point. The attention of the hon. Member is however invited to paragraph 40 and paragraph 12 of the Resettlement Notification appended to G.O. No. 42, Revenue, dated the 5th January 1935, which was laid on the table of the Legislative Council.

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" May I know whether the Hon. Member will call for a report from the Board of Revenue whether they have issued any order?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" I have no objection, Sir."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" May I ask if it is a cardinal principle of the ryotwari system that when once the classification of the land is settled, it should not be disturbed for another thirty years?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" As a general statement, it may be true, but there are exceptions."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" May I know, Sir, whether the making of improvements and converting the lands from ordinary into garden lands or wet lands or from single crop wet lands into double crop wet lands, come under the exception?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" Notice, Sir."

Arrest and imprisonment of pattadars in South Kanara for default in the payment of land revenue.

* 448 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Revenue officials in South Kanara are having recourse to arrest and imprisonment of pattadars for enforcing collections of arrears of land revenue; and

(*b*) whether there have been instances when pattadars were arrested and imprisoned to enforce payment of land revenue in other districts of this Presidency within the last ten years; if so, how many, where and when?